

Characters

- PEA
- ROE
- STEPHEN

Scene 1

SCENE 1

A café, probably in Europe. PEA and ROE sit at a table. PEA to the right, ROE to the left. It is late afternoon. There is a lot of olive green in the air and the trimmings are olive green enamel. PEA'S and ROE'S heads are large and shapeless, like potatoes. Their skin is dark. Their flesh is shiny and oily. Their eyes are reddish and watery. They have warts on their faces and necks. Their bodies are also like potatoes. PEA wears an olive hat, a beige jacket, and greenish-brown pants. ROE wears a brown hat and a brown suit. When they breathe their bodies sweat. Their skin and general shape resemble those of seals or sea lions. There is a folded newspaper on the table. PEA looks at it.

PEA

My God, what is it?

ROE

It's a newspaper.

PEA

It is beautiful.

(ROE *nods*)

May I touch it?

(ROE *nods*. PEA *touches the paper*. A tear rolls down his face)

This must be made by a person.

ROE

Yes, many of them. They put out a new one each day.

(PEA *lifts the corner of the first page*. He gasps. He puts the palm of his hand on the paper tenderly. He takes his hand off and looks at it again)

PEA

(*Pointing*)

Is this not a woman?

ROE

Yes.

PEA

(*Pointing*)

And what is this?

(ROE *looks*)

ROE

A snowdrift.

(PEA *looks at* ROE)

It is snow that has been blown by the wind.

(*Looks at the caption*)

It's seven feet high.

PEA

It is very high.

ROE

Yes.

PEA

What is snow?

ROE

Snow is rain that freezes as it falls to the ground. It freezes with the cold. It becomes white and it is not liquid. It is more like powder.

(*Pointing*)

You see here? They have made a snowman.

PEA

A man?

ROE

Not a real man. They have packed the snow and shaped it so it resembles a man.

PEA

How awkward.

ROE

Why is it awkward?

PEA

Oh, isn't it?

ROE

Well no, I think it's very well made.

PEA

Oh yes! It's very well made.

ROE

I thought you found it awkward.

PEA

Maybe I don't know what awkward means.

ROE

Oh, awkward means clumsy, not graceful.

PEA

Oh, I meant to say strikingly wonderful.

ROE

Oh, awkward doesn't mean that.

PEA

Oh, well. I must apologize then. The man is very well made.

ROE

Oh, you don't need to apologize. He doesn't mind your saying he's awkward.

PEA

He is very nice then. He must be a very nice man.

ROE

He's not a man.

PEA

I thought you said he was.

ROE

He is a snowman. That is, he is an imitation of a man. It is snow that has been packed to look like a man.

PEA

What am I made of?

ROE

You're made of flesh. Human flesh.

PEA

And you?

ROE

Human flesh.

PEA

(*Pointing to the paper*)

And her?

ROE

She's made of human flesh.

PEA

(*Pointing*)

I look more like him than like her.

ROE

(*Looks closely at the picture*)

Maybe.

(*Short pause*)

But he, when it gets warmer, will melt. She will not. And you will not.

PEA

Could I meet her?

ROE

You want to meet her?

PEA

Yes.

ROE

(*Reads the caption*)

Her name is Jane Spivak.

PEA

She's beautiful. I would like to look at her. In the flesh.

ROE

I don't know if I could introduce you to her. I don't know where she lives. But I know other girls I could introduce you to.

PEA

I don't think I want to meet anyone else. Other girls may be beautiful, but she looks so very lovely. I like looking at her.

(*Touching the paper*)

Even here on this paper.

(*Pauses*)

We should be leaving now, Roe, before it gets cold.

ROE

We should wait for Stephen. He said he would meet us here.

PEA

He did?

ROE

Yes.

PEA

At what time did he say he will come?

ROE

At six.

(STEPHEN *enters*)

Here he is.

(*Reaches for his cane*)

We can leave now.

PEA

He may want to stay awhile and warm up.

ROE

Oh, yes, he may.

(STEPHEN *looks like* PEA and ROE. *He wears a brown hat, a small checkered jacket, and brown pants. He waddles toward the table. The lights fade*)

Scene 2

SCENE 2

A few minutes later. PEA'S head leans on the table. He sleeps. ROE sits on the left. STEPHEN stands upstage of the table.

STEPHEN

(*Referring to* PEA)

He is very kind and he could not do harm to anyone.

ROE

Yes. And I don't want any harm to come to him either because he's good.

(*The lights fade*)

Scene 3

SCENE 3

A month later. PEA sits in the same seat. ROE stands to his left. PEA'S necktie is pulled loose. His shirt collar is open and

his hat is pushed back as someone who has not slept well. He is somewhat frenetic.

PEA

She is a mystery to me. I look at her as one looks at an animal, loving those eyes, the look in them, the breath as it goes into her shirt, her lips as they close and then part, her mind, the way her body moves. I love her. She is close to my heart the way only an animal can be. And as unfathomable. Looking into her eyes is so quiet--like sleep, like a bed. And she, she is wild like a tiger. She smells like a lion, and she claws like a lion, and yet, in her eyes, she is quiet like a fish.

ROE

That is beautiful, Pea, the way you talk about her.

PEA

(*Short of air and making a sound like snoring*)

I am not a person. I am a bat. Look at my skin, see? It is too smooth and too dark. Touch it. This is not like human skin. Look at my nails. Press them.

(ROE *presses* PEA' *S fingers*)

See how they turn white? That's not human.

(*Stands and turns his buttocks in ROE's direction*)

Look at that--My anus is violet. Put your finger on it. It is rough.

(*Sits*)

When I met her I asked her if it felt as good to touch her as it felt to look at her. She said, "Try it."

(*Moves his head up and from side to side rapturously*)

Do you know what it is to need someone? The feeling is much deeper than words can ever say. Do you know what despair is? Anguish? What is it that makes someone a link between you and your own life? I hold her close to me and she pushes me away. She finds me repulsive. She pushed me away and she said, "You rub against me like a piece of meat. You are a piece of meat. That's what you are. Like meat at the meat market. You have no brains or a soul. You are just a piece of meat. Don't rub against me anymore."

ROE

(*Putting his hand on PEA' S forehead*)

Let me touch you. You are cold. What a terrible thing to see a young man like you destroyed like this. Suffering like this.

PEA

(*Gets the folded newspaper from inside his jacket*)

I thought if I kept her picture next to me I'd find relief. But I don't find relief. There is no relief in this.

(*Puts his head on the table*)

Is this why we have come to life? To love like this? And hurt like this?

(*A moment passes. ROE puts his hand on PEA'S back. STEPHEN enters and waddles to the table. He looks at ROE*)

ROE

He's drowning. He hurts too much.

(*Lights fade to black*)